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VACAVALLEY RADIO CLUB

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VACAVILLE , CALIFORNIA **May 2016**

President's Message

Well, I have returned from the DX Convention held every year in Visalia and in attending this year's event, I did not enjoy it as much as I have in the past due to some body issues I was having to deal with. While there was close to 800 hams attending the event, there wasn't as many vendors as there has been in the past including not as many radio worthwhile seminars/topics either. At the Saturday night dinner & awards ceremony, one young ham was awarded a new Yaesu FT-450D radio and one lucky ham whose raffle ticket was drawn found himself being awarded a brand new Yaesu FTDX-5000MP radio (or was it a FTDX-9000MP instead - can't remember the details at the moment!). But in general, I did find some enjoyment with & at the event so my $$$ spent wasn't a complete loss!

Okie Dokie, I see that plans for the upcoming Field Day event are moving right along and in a positive direction. For those of you that are not aware of the turnout for Field Day, the FD event in general has a full slate of OTA activity all day and into the evening hours of Saturday with only about a 25-50% turnout for Sunday and seeing that we are holding this year's FD at the new club meeting location (that being the Nut Tree Airport), the management at the NTA has its rules for which are to abide by with one of them being that no one operating club member and/or guest will be allowed to remain on the NTA property overnight. In past FD events, doing an "overnight" was possible, but then again it wasn't held at a facility like the NTA. But I can't help but wonder that perhaps at next year's FD event, we might possibly convince the NTA management to allow the operating hams

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VVRC MEETING NOTES: APRIL 2016

April was a very light meeting for VVRC. With a portion of our members including club President Marcus, KI6WDX at the DX Convention in Visalia. We shall hear of the adventures down south soon.

No new Business or old Business for the Month of April.

Vice President Frank, KJ6RWQ touched on our social media presence on FaceBook. This is free advertising and for awareness that our club exists and to help a potential draw of future club members. We will be expanding into other electronic media in the future.

We can do coffee and snacks at the meeting so bring some in to eat, bring even more and feed your fellow VVRC ham. Thank you Tom KE6MDM, for the update

Brian, KK6BXP did review the results of the What Bands Questions for future unofficial pre net radio use on other bands before the formal Tuesday night net. We will be starting the pre net in September as we return from the summer intermission. The unofficial pre net will be on the Tuesday after the VVRC Thursday monthly meeting. The Band / frequency will be announced in the newsletter that comes out at the beginning of the month. The prior Tuesday night nets & lastly at the VVRC Thursday night meeting. This should give you 3 opportunities to have the information for what frequency will be used.

Tom KE6MDM, brought up doing a winter event station; To be followed up on as December approaches.

Tuesday night nets are averaging 10 call-ins of 21 paid members & 1 guest. This has been running average from the beginning of the year.

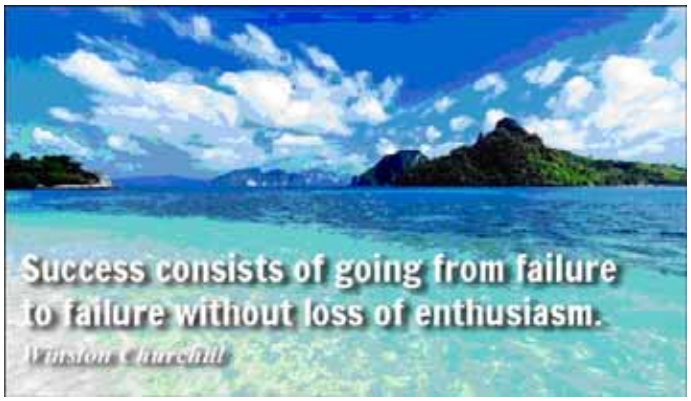
The Field Day 2016 event keeps us on our toes. Good news is confirmation for use. Bad updated news is that we cannot stay overnight. Details to be presented at the May VVRC Thursday night meeting.

Brian, KK6BXP
Secretary, VVRC

President's Message Continued from Page 1-------> permission to remain on their property overnight. I think the best way to convince the NTA management is conduct ourselves in the most positive and professional manner we can and to not "trash" their property and make sure there is no incidents at and/or on their property! In order for this club to hold its meetings and ARRL events at and on the NTA property, we have to prove to the NTA management that our radio club has members that are mature, well mannered, responsible, safety minded and respect for others and their property. Gaining their confidence in our club is the key to asking them for things we'd like.

I will be in attendance for both the May and June club meetings before the summer recess and I will likely be at this year's first (and hopefully future) Farmer's Market booth appearances so our radio club can get some good worthwhile public exposure since of the local citizens I've talked with, nearly every one of them didn't know our radio club existed. And just so no one is caught unaware, I will be announcing the formation of a new radio worthy subject at the May club meeting which if the idea of it is well received, I'd like to see the idea acted on and included with the club's yearly activities. What is it, you ask? You'll just have to attend the May club meeting to find out. That's all for now!

7 3 Marcus Maclean, Pres., KI6WDX



These are the dates that W9IMS will be on the air this year

Just arrived this evening from Indianapolis -- these are the dates that W9IMS will be on the air this year:

Grand Prix	May 8 - May 14
Indy 500	May 23 - 29
Brick Yard	July 18 - July 24

And as you returning race fans will notice, what has traditionally been the fourth and last race of the Indy season - the Moto G.P. - is missing from the schedule this year because it's been cancelled UFN.

When we get a little closer to the first date in May, you can look up the operating schedule and frequencies by going to QRZ.com and pulling up W9IMS.

However, I just checked and as I type this, it's still showing LAST YEARS information, so be patient… give it a couple of weeks.

Remember – all it takes is being in the log at least once FOR EACH OF THE THREE SEPARATE RACES to be eligible to receive the beautiful full colour "special certificate" – suitable for framing - in addition to the QSL card for each of the three races that you worked. This is all the reason to go and mark the dates on your calendar RIGHT NOW so that you don't forget and miss one of the races!

And finally: Yes, I am planning to be your Voice of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway once again this year, and I hope to be the lucky one who puts you into the log!

73 for now.
de – Skip – AF6HC

THE VVRC WELCOMES YOU

The Vaca Valley Radio Club has proudly served the Northern Solano County Area since 1988. We pride ourselves in providing a friendly place for radio amateurs to meet and improve their operating skills.

We participate in public service events throughout the year and are always ready to assist with communications during times of emergency.

Browsw our website for more information about our club. If you have any questions please e-mail us at w6vvr@w6vvr.net or call 707-448-5665 for assistance

The Repeater is Published by the Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143, An ARRL Affiliated Club. Founded 1987, Chartered 1988. General Meetings: 2nd Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM 330 Nut Tree Road, (Nut Tree Airport)

Wheelchair accessible

Bruce McCaskie, N6THN's, Power Supply Presentation

An excellent presentation on power supplies was made by Bruce McCaskie, N6THN during the VacaValley Radio Club's April meeting.

Starting with basic power supplies he lectured on many technical details up through very complicated types. His manner of presenting details was very easy to understand even if you had a limited knowledge of electronics.

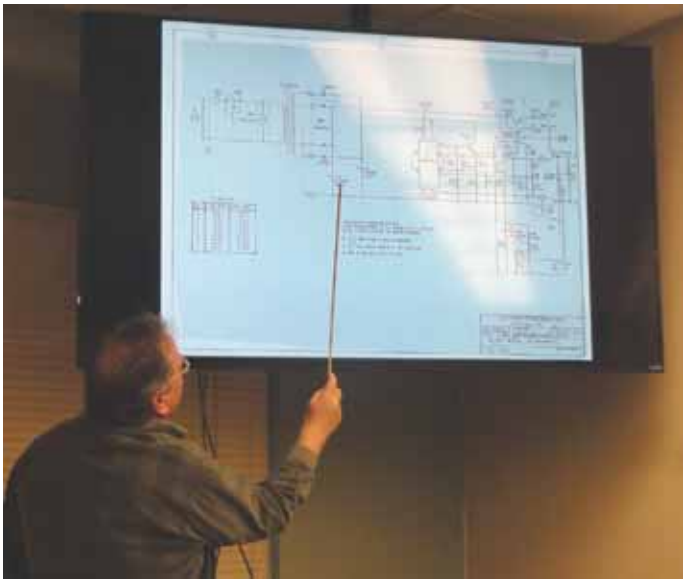
I got the impression that many of the members were surprised at his level of expertise.

Toward the end of his presentation he detailed how to modify 300 watt computer power supplies to use as 12 VDC for ham radio equipment. Thousands of these power supplies are discarded every day. Hopefully I can persuade him to write up how it's done for our next newsletter.

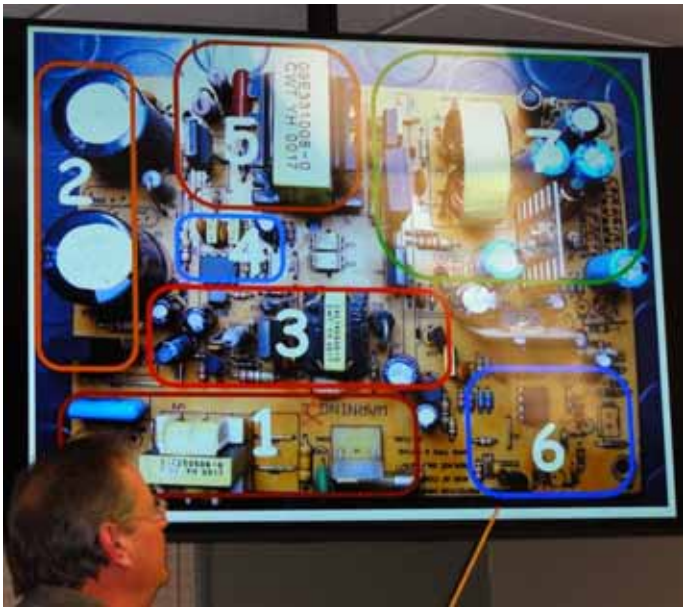
Thank you Bruce for your excellent presentation.

Bruce came very well prepared for his power supply presentation

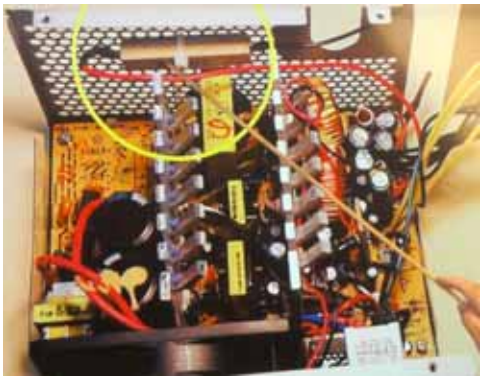
Starting with more basic supplies began detailing the technical details of their operation



Here Bruce how crowbar circuits protect the attached ham equipment from short circuits



The components of a unmodified 300 watt computer power supply



A 300 watt computer power supply modified to 12 VDC for ham radio use

THE BIT BUCKET

Real-Time Band Conditions

By Jeff On January 22, 2015

Here is a very interesting real-time band condition indicator. It updates quickly showing you how the ionosphere fluctuates.

The purpose of this experimental website is to provide 24-7-365 actual (***REALTIME***) band condition information to CW QRPp, QRPe and CW / SSB Contesters interested in increasing their scores.

It can also be of benefit to other Radio Amateurs to determine band condtions for Nets and casual QSO's. This information is NOT based on any software predictions or any kind of satellite based readings.

It is based on a new Ionospheric sounding method called "HF Ionospheric Interferometry" which operates very similarly to the PolSAR system used by NASA.

The website and instructions can be found at:
http://www.bandconditions.com/

New ARRL 'The Doctor is In' podcast

QST's popular "The Doctor is In" column is now an audio podcast and you can start listening *today!*

Sponsored by DX Engineering, "ARRL The Doctor is In" is a lively discussion of all things technical. Listen on your computer, tablet or smartphone – whenever and wherever you like!

Every two weeks your host, *QST* Editor in Chief Steve Ford, WB8IMY, and the Doctor himself, Joel Hallas, W1ZR, will discuss a broad range of technical topics. You can also e-mail your questions to **doctor@arrl.org** and they may answer them in a future podcast.

Enjoy "ARRL The Doctor is In" on **Apple iTunes**, or by using your iPhone or iPad podcast app (just search for ARRL The Doctor is In).

You can also listen online through **Stitcher** (free registration required) and through the free Stitcher app for iOS, Kindle or Android devices. Subscribe to the podcast free of charge through either service and never miss an episode.

You'll find the podcast archive at **www.arrl.org/doctor**.***Listen now!***

NET CONTROL OPERATORS

1st week of month-Jerry Bowen, KJ6SCC
2nd week of month-Kim Ware, KJ6JNX
3rd week of month-Frank Garay, KJ6RWQ
4th week of month-Brian Hagen, KK6BXP
On months with 5 weeks-Bob Hewitt, K6HEW

Visit the Repeater online courtesy of Bob K6HEW at: w6vvrClub repeater in Vacaville:w6vvr.net 145.470 MHz(-) pl 127.3
The W6VVR net call is Tuesday evenings at 8pm on the club repeater. All are invited to participate in this weekly meeting on the air. 73!
Additional local repeaters
WV6F-224.200 (-127.3)
WV6F- 440.025 (+ 127.3)

Contest Robot

Last week, Microsoft was a bit chagrinned when their Artificial Intelligence tweet-driven robot learned some bad language at the hands of the Internet at Large. While this misstep became newsworthy because of the company involved, the coverage didn't usually include the reasons why this type of technology was being developed. The goal is that in the future these AI agents will be able to learn and understand queries from humans without being explicitly programmed - to factor humans INTO account, to be able to respond to the intent of conversation if even the language being used is not precise.

In thinking about it, it seems to me that what we do in contesting is a bit of the opposite. Contesters aspire to constrain the domain of information exchange to the minimum required to make a contact, and we strive to have ever-more machine-like precision in our requests and responses. We strive to take the variable human part OUT. And go faster.

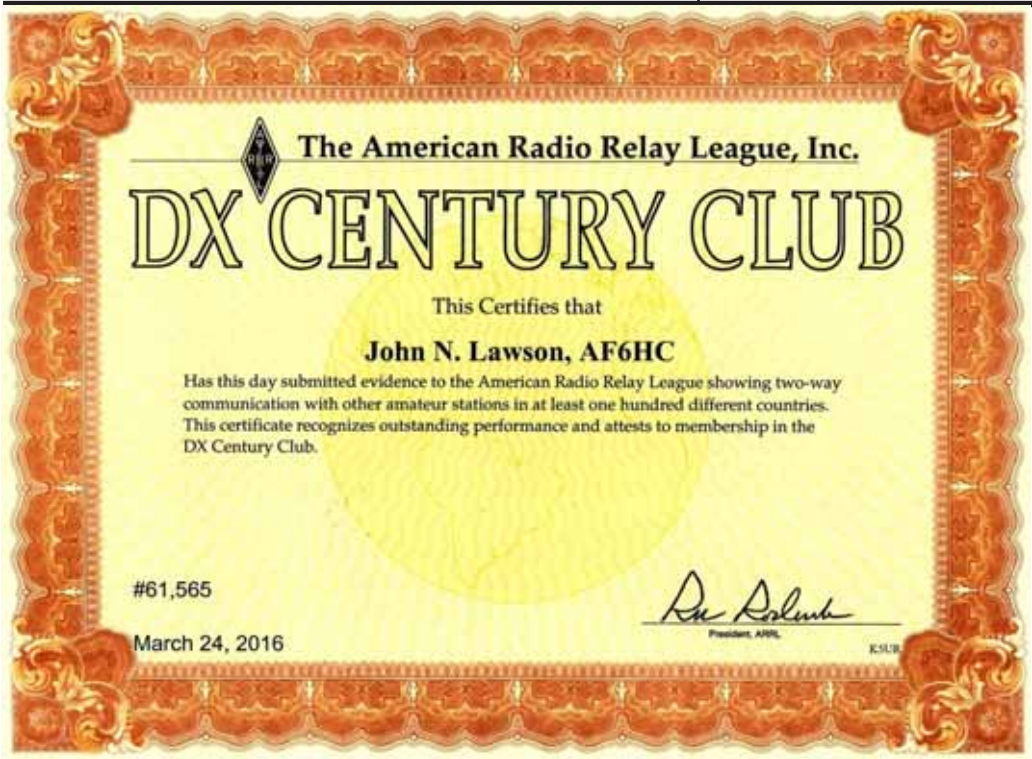
It's hard to find a human that can copy 45.5 baud RTTY, so the computer must do that part. There used to be more humans per capita that could and were willing to interpret CW encoding of information reliably, so computers are doing more of that now, too. Aging human units can sometimes have difficulty interpreting speech information in low signal to noise situations, so while not mainstream, programming to take over that aspect is improving.

Duplicate checking helps we humans remember those stations we've worked, and our computer aids can tell us what this callsign sent in the last contest; as humans, our job is to feed the information into the computer, see if we need more or different information, and then make the next contact. It's better when we send information in the same format each time, so that waiting responding stations become comfortable with the rhythm. The logging program and computer send perfect CW. For some QSOs, all the ham needs to do is click and hit enter two times. Who is operating whom?

How could all of this computer assistance evolve over time? Tree, N6TR made a Z80-based CW robot years ago to make Field Day contacts under supervised conditions. "TACO", the operator name, stood for "Totally Automated Control Operator." Computing capability has evolved quite a bit since the Z80 era. In 2005, Ward, N0AX, posited that "it's going to take a long time, though, before machine- and human-copy signals can mix it up together to the point of a human not realizing that they are communicating with a machine."

In the context of amateur radio contesting, have we already crossed that boundary? Where does the assistance end and the operator begin?

73, Brian N9ADG



Now here's something you don't see every day.

As you know Skip, AF6HC, is an avid contester. To receive this award from the ARRL, he spent thousands of hours over several years to make contacts in over 100 different countries.

Congratulations Skip!

VVRC Field Day
Caught by Surprise!!

Steve, KJ6KIH, and Jerry, KJ6SCC were appointed to be "team leaders for this event"

At tha point neither of us had any idea what "Team Leader's "duties were!

In the meantime we checked on the rules for Field Day 2016 and found a few surprises.

At the time we felt like we were up to our

Brian, KK6BXP and Tom, KE6MDM have done a great job making Field Day issues easy to assist them with for Steve and I.

Here are a couple of items that have been ignored by a few in the past:

a. Some of you have volunteered to work the following bands; 60, 30, 17, or12- meters and these are excluded during the Field Day.

b . The use of more than one transmitter at the same time on a single band-mode is prohibited.

c. Field Day is not a DX contest: it's a test of Emergency services.

As we dove into the intricacies of what we needed to do, Tom KE6MDM, continued working with the airport management solving several operational items.

A very big pat on the back to him is due from the club members.

Details will be discussed at the May club meeting.

I've extracted the rules section from the PDF and is and are in the following text:

Field Day June 25 – 26, 2016

Start: 1800 UTC Saturday
End 2100 UTC Sunday
Always the fourth full weekend in June

For information contact:
Field Day Information
ARRL
225 Main St.
Newington, CT 06111
fdinfo@arrl.org
(860) 594-0236

Field Day 2016 – June 25th – 26th

ARRL Field Day 2016 Rules

1. Eligibility: Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2. DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit, and may submit entries as check-logs.

2. Object: To work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17, and 12- meter bands) and in doing so to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. A premium is placed on developing skills to meet the challenges of emergency preparedness as well as to acquaint the general public with the capabilities of Amateur Radio.

3. Date and Time Period: Field Day is **always the fourth full weekend**, beginning at 1800 UTC Saturday and ending at 2100 UTC Sunday. **Field Day 2016 will be held June 25-26, 2016.**

3.1. Class A and B (see below) stations that do not begin setting up until 1800 UTC on Saturday may operate the entire 27-hour Field Day period.

3.2. Stations who begin setting up before 1800 UTC Saturday may work only 24 consecutive hours, commencing when on-the-air operations begin.

3.3. No class A or B station may begin its set-up earlier than 0000 UTC on the Friday (Thursday afternoon or evening local time) preceding the Field Day period. Cumulative set-up time shall not exceed a total of 24 hours.

4. Entry Categories: 4. Entry Categories: Field Day entries are classified according to the maximum number of *simultaneously* transmitted signals, followed by a designator indicating the nature of their individual or group participation. The minimum number of transmitters that must be claimed is one (1). Twenty (20) transmitters maximum are eligible for the purpose of calculating bonus points (2,000 points maximum). However, additional transmitters which may legitimately be used simultaneously will determine your entry category classification, but will not earn additional bonus points (i.e. 22 transmitters = 22A). The use of switching systems that allow for lockouts in order to use multiple transmitters (i.e., an "octopus") in an attempt to enter a lower-number-of-transmitters class are prohibited (i.e. using 2 transmitters that can transmit simultaneously, with two operators, and a lock-out system and entering class 1A). The use of simulcasting devices which allow a single operator to key and transmit on more than one transmitter at a time, is prohibited. **Bonus stations, such as the GOTA station and satellite station do not count towards determining the number of transmitters for the class and do not qualify for transmitter bonus points.**

4.1. (Class A) Club / non-club portable: Club or a non-club group of three or more persons set up specifically for Field Day. Such stations must be located in places that are not regular station locations and must not use facilities installed for permanent station use, or use any structure installed permanently for Field Day. A single licensee or trustee for the entry is responsible for the group entry. All equipment (including antennas) must lie within a circle whose diameter does not exceed 300 meters (1000 feet). To be listed as Class A, all contacts must be made with transmitter(s) and receiver(s) operating independent of commercial power mains. Entrants whom for any reason operate a transmitter or receiver from a commercial main for one or more contacts will be listed separately as Class A-Commercial.

4.1.1. Get-On-The-Air (GOTA) Station. Any Class A (or F) entry whose transmitter classification is two or more transmitters may also operate one additional station without changing its base entry category, known as the GET-ON-THE-AIR (GOTA) station. **This GOTA station may operate on any Field Day band, HF or VHF, but is limited to one GOTA station transmitted signal at any time.**

4.1.1.1. This station **must use** a different call sign from the primary Field Day station.

The GOTA station must use the same callsign for the duration of the event regardless if operators change. **The GOTA station uses the same exchange as its parent.**

4.1.1.2. **The GOTA station may be operated by any person licensed since the previous year's Field Day, regardless of license class. It may also be operated by a generally inactive licensee. Non-licensed persons may participate under the direct supervision of an appropriate control operator. A list of operators and participants must be included on the required summary sheet to ARRL HQ.**

4.1.1.3. As per FCC rules, this station must have a valid control operator present at the control point if operating beyond the license privileges of the participant using the station.

4.1.1.4. The maximum transmitter output power for the GOTA station shall be **150 watts**.

If the primary Field Day group is claiming the QRP multiplier level of 5, the maximum transmitter output power of the GOTA station may not exceed 5 watts.

4.1.1.5. A maximum of 500 QSOs made by this station may be claimed for credit by its primary Field Day operation. In addition, bonus points may be earned by this station under rule 7.3.13.

4.1.1.6. The GOTA station may operate on any Field Day band. Only one transmitted signal is allowed from the GOTA station at any time.

4.1.1.7. The GOTA station does not affect the additional VHF/UHF station provided for under Field Day Rule 4.1.2. for Class A stations.

4.1.1.8. Participants are reminded that non-licensed participants working under the direction of a valid control operator may only communicate with other W/VE stations or with stations in countries with which the US has entered a third-party agreement.

4.1.1.9. The GOTA station does not qualify as an additional transmitter when determining the number of transmitters eligible for the 100-point emergency power bonus under Rule 7.3.1.

4.1.2. Free VHF Station: All Class A entries may also operate one additional transmitter if it operates exclusively on any band or combination of bands above 50 MHz (VHF/UHF) without changing its basic entry classification. This station does not qualify for a 100-point bonus as an additional transmitter. This station

may be operated for the clubs Field Day period and all contacts count for QSO credit. It is operated using the primary callsign and exchange of the main Field Day group and is separate and distinct from the GOTA station.

4.2. (Class A - Battery) Club / non-club portable: Club or non-club group of three or more persons set up specifically for Field Day. All contacts must be made using an output power of 5 Watts or less **and** the power source must be something other than commercial power mains or motor-driven generator (e.g.: batteries, solar cells, water-driven generator). Other provisions are the same for regular Class A. Class AB is eligible for a GOTA station if GOTA requirements are met; however if a GOTA station is used in this class it must meet the 5-Watt or less power requirement of this category.

4.3. (Class B) One or two person portable: A Field Day station set up and operated by no more than two persons. Other provisions are the same for Class A except it is not eligible for a GOTA or free VHF station. One and two person Class B entries will be listed separately.

4.4. (Class B - Battery) One or two person portable: A Field Day station set up and operated by no more than two persons. All contacts must be made using an output power of 5 Watts or less **and** the power source must be something other than commercial mains or motor-driven generator. Other provisions are the same for Class A except it is not eligible for a GOTA or free VHF station. One and two person Class B - Battery entries will be listed separately.

4.5. (Class C) Mobile: Stations in vehicles capable of operating while in motion and normally operated in this manner. This includes maritime and aeronautical mobile. If the Class C station is being powered from a car battery or alternator, it qualifies for emergency power but does not qualify for the multiplier of 5, as the alternator/battery system constitutes a motor-driven generating system.

4.6. (Class D) Home stations: Stations operating from permanent or licensed station locations using commercial power. Class D stations may only count contacts made with Class A, B, C, E and F Field Day stations.

4.7. (Class E) Home stations - Emergency power: Same as Class D, but using emergency power for transmitters and receivers. Class E may work all Field Day stations.

4.8. (Class F) Emergency Operations Centers (EOC): An amateur radio station at an established EOC activated by a club or non-club group. Class F operation must take place at an established EOC site. Stations may utilize equipment and antennas temporarily or permanently installed at the EOC for the event. Entries will be reported according to number of transmitters in simultaneous operation. Class F stations are eligible for a free VHF station. At Class 2F they are also eligible for a GOTA station.

4.8.1. For Field Day purposes, an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) is defined as a facility established by **a)** a Federal, State, County, City or other Civil Government, agency or administrative entity; or,

b) a Chapter of a national or international served agency (such as American Red Cross or Salvation Army) with which your local group has an established operating arrangement;

4.8.1.1. A private company EOC does not qualify for Class F status unless approved by the ARRL Field Day Manager.

4.8.2. Planning of a Class F operation must take place in conjunction and cooperation with the staff of the EOC being activated.

4.8.3. Other provisions not covered are the same as Class A.

4.8.4. A Class F station may claim the emergency power bonus if emergency power is available at the EOC site.

4.8.4.1. The emergency power source must be tested during the Field Day period but you are not required to run the Class F operation under emergency power.

5**. Exchange:** Stations in ARRL / RAC sections will exchange their Field Day operating Class and ARRL / RAC section. Example: a three transmitter class A station in Connecticut which also has a GOTA station and the extra VHF station would send “3A CT” on CW or “3 Alpha Connecticut” on Phone. DX stations send operating class and the term DX (i.e. 2A DX).

6. Miscellaneous Rules:

6.1. A person may not contact for QSO credit any station from which they also participate.

6.2. A transmitter/receiver/transceiver used to contact one or more Field Day stations may not subsequently be used under any other callsign to participate in Field Day. Family stations are exempt provided the subsequent callsign used is issued to and used by a different family member.

6.3. Phone, CW and Digital (non-CW) modes on a band are considered as separate bands. A station may be worked only once per band under this rule.

6.4. All voice contacts are equivalent.

6.5. All non-CW digital contacts are equivalent.

6.6. Cross-band contacts are not permitted (Satellite QSOs cross-band contacts are exempted).

6.7. The use of more than one transmitter at the same time on a single band-mode is prohibited. Exception: a dedicated GOTA station may operate as prescribed in Rule 4.1.

6.8. No repeater contacts are allowed.

6.9. Batteries may be charged while in use. Except for Class D stations, the batteries must be charged from a power source other than commercial power mains. To claim the power multiplier of five, the batteries must be charged from something other than a motor driven generator or commercial mains.

6.10. All stations for a single entry must be operated under one callsign, except when a dedicated GOTA station is operated as provided under Field Day Rule 4.1.1. it uses a single, separate callsign.

7. Scoring: Scores are based on the total number of QSO points times the power multiplier corresponding to the highest power level under which any contact was made during the Field Day period plus the bonus points.

7.1. QSO Points:

7.1.1. Phone contacts count one point each.

7.1.2. CW contacts count two points each.

7.1.3. Digital contacts count two points each.

7.2. Power multipliers: The power multiplier that applies is determined by the highest power output of any of the transmitters used during the Field Day operation.

7.2.1. If all contacts are made using a power of 5 Watts or less ***and*** if a power source other than commercial mains or motor-driven generator is used (batteries, solar cells, water-driven generator), the power multiplier is 5 (five).

7.2.2. If all contacts are made using a power of 5 Watts or less, but the power source is from a commercial main or from a motor-driven generator, the power multiplier is 2. If batteries are charged during the Field Day period using commercial mains or a motor-driven generator the power multiplier is 2 (two).

7.2.3. If any or all contacts are made using an output power up to 150 Watts or less, the power multiplier is 2 (two).

7.2.4. If any or all contacts are made using an output power greater than 150 Watts, the power multiplier is 1 (one).

7.2.5. The power multiplier for an entry is determined by the maximum output power used by any transmitter used to complete any contact during the event. (Example: a group has one QRP station running 3 Watts and a second station running 100 Watts, the power multiplier of 2 applies to all contacts made by the entire operation).

7.3. Bonus Points: All stations are eligible for certain bonus points, depending on their entry class. The following bonus points will be added to the score, after the multiplier is applied, to determine the final Field Day score. Bonus points will be applied only when the claim is made on the summary sheet and any proof required accompanies the entry or is received via email or normal mail delivery.

7.3.1. 100% Emergency Power: 100 points per transmitter classification if all contacts are made only using an emergency power source up to a total of 20 transmitters **(maximum 2,000 points.) GOTA station and free VHF Station for Class A and F entries do not qualify for bonus point credit and should not be included in the club's transmitter total.** All transmitting equipment at the site must operate from a power source completely independent of the commercial power mains to qualify. (Example: a club operating 3 transmitters plus a GOTA station and using 100% emergency power receives 300 bonus points.) **Available to Classes A, B, C, E, and F.**

7.3.2. Media Publicity: 100 bonus points may be earned for attempting to obtain publicity from the local media. A copy of the press release, or a copy of the actual media publicity received (newspaper article, etc.) must be submitted to claim the points. **Available to all Classes.**

7.3.3. Public Location: 100 bonus points for physically locating the Field Day operation in a public place (i.e. shopping center, park, school campus, etc). The intent is for amateur radio to be on display to the public. **Available to Classes A, B and F.**

7.3.4. Public Information Table: 100 bonus points for a Public Information Table at the Field Day site. The purpose is to make appropriate handouts and information available to the visiting public at the site. A copy of a visitor's log, copies of club handouts or photos is sufficient evidence for claiming this bonus. **Available to Classes A, B and F.**

7.3.5. Message Origination to Section Manager: 100 bonus points for origination of a formal message to the ARRL Section Manager or Section Emergency Coordinator by your group from its site. You should include the club name, number of participants, Field Day location, and number of ARES operators involved with your station. **The message must be transmitted during the Field Day period and a copy of it must be included in your submission in standard ARRL radiogram or no credit will be given. The message must leave or enter the Field Day operation via amateur radio RF.** The Section Manager message is separate from the messages handled in Rule 7.3.6. and may not be claimed for bonus points under that rule. **Available to all Classes.**

7.3.6. Message Handling: **10 points for each formal message originated, relayed or received and delivered during the Field Day period, up to a maximum of 100 points (ten messages). Copies of each message must**

be included with the Field Day report. The message to the ARRL SM or SEC under Rule 7.3.5. does not count towards the total of 10 for this bonus. Available to all Classes. All messages claimed for bonus points must leave or enter the Field Day operation via amateur radio RF.

7.3.7. Satellite QSO: 100 bonus points for successfully completing at least one QSO via an amateur radio satellite during the Field Day period. "General Rules for All ARRL Contests" (Rule 3.7.2.), (the no-repeater QSO stipulation) is waived for satellite QSOs. Groups are allowed one dedicated satellite transmitter station without increasing their entry category. Satellite QSOs also count for regular QSO credit. Show them listed separately on the summary sheet as a separate "band." You do not receive an additional bonus for contacting different satellites, though the additional QSOs may be counted for QSO credit unless prohibited under Rule 7.3.7.1. The QSO must be between two Earth stations through a satellite. **Available to Classes A, B, and F.**

7.3.7.1 Stations are limited to one (1) completed QSO on any single channel FM satellite.

7.3.8. Alternate Power: 100 bonus points for Field Day groups making a minimum of five QSOs without using power from commercial mains or petroleum driven generator. This means an "alternate" energy source of power, such as solar, wind, methane or water. This includes batteries charged by natural means (not dry cells). The natural power transmitter counts as an additional transmitter. If you do not wish to increase your operating category, you should take one of your other transmitters off the air while the natural power transmitter is in operation. A separate list of natural power QSOs should be submitted with your entry. **Available to Classes A, B, E, and F.**

7.3.9. W1AW Bulletin: 100 bonus points for copying the special Field Day bulletin transmitted by W1AW (or K6KPH) during its operating schedule during the Field Day weekend (listed in this rules announcement). An accurate copy of the message is required to be included in your Field Day submission. (Note: The Field Day bulletin must be copied via amateur radio. It will not be included in Internet bulletins sent out from Headquarters and will not be posted to Internet BBS sites.) **Available to all Classes.**

7.3.10. Educational activity bonus: One (1) 100-point bonus may be claimed if your Field Day operation includes a specific educational-related activity. The activity can be diverse and must be related to amateur radio. It must be some type of formal activity. It can be repeated during the Field Day period but only one bonus is earned. For more information consult the FAQ in the complete Field Day packet. **Available to Classes A & F entries and available clubs or groups operating from a club station in class D and E with 3 or more participants.**

7.3.11. Site Visitation by an elected governmental official: One (1) 100-point bonus may be claimed if your Field Day site is visited by an elected government official as the result of an invitation issued by your group. **Available to all Classes.**

7.3.12. Site Visitation by a representative of an agency: One (1) 100-point bonus may be claimed if your Field Day site is visited by a representative of an agency served by ARES in your local community (American Red Cross, Salvation Army, local Emergency Management, law enforcement, etc.) as the result of an invitation issued by your group. ARRL officials (SM, SEC, DEC, EC, etc) do not qualify for this bonus. **Available to all Classes.**

7.3.13. GOTA Bonus. Class A and F stations operating a GOTA station may earn the following bonus points:

7.3.13.1. When a GOTA operator successfully completes 20 QSOs, they receive 20 bonus points. Upon reaching an additional 20 QSOs the same operator receives a second 20 bonus points, up to a maximum of 100 Bonus points per GOTA operator. An operator may make more than 100 QSOs but the QSOs over 100 do not qualify for an additional bonus.

7.3.13.1.1. Additional GOTA operators may earn the GOTA bonus points under this rule, up to the maximum of 500 bonus points. (Remember that there is a 500-QSO limit for the GOTA station. But no single GOTA operator may earn more than 100 of the GOTA bonus points except as provided in 7.3.13.2.)

7.3.13.1.2. A single GOTA operator must complete all 20 QSOs required before the bonus is earned. There is no "partial credit" for making only a portion of the 20 QSOs or "pooling" QSOs between operators.

7.3.13.2. If a GOTA station is supervised full-time by a GOTA Coach, the bonus points earned for each 20 QSOs completed under Rule 7.3.13.1. will be doubled.

7.3.13.2.1. The GOTA Coach supervises the operator of the station, doing such things as answering questions and talking them through contacts, but may not make QSOs or perform logging functions.

7.3.13.2.2. To qualify for this bonus, there must be a designated GOTA Coach present and supervising the GOTA station at all times it is being operated.

7.3.14. Web submission: A 50-point bonus may be claimed by a group submitting their Field Day entry via the www.b4h.net/cabforms web site. **Available to all Classes.**

7.3.15. Field Day Youth Participation:

7.3.15.1. A 20-point bonus (maximum of 100) may be earned by any Class A, C, D, E, or F group for each participant age 18 or younger at your Field Day operation that completes at least one QSO.

7.3.15.2. For a 1-person Class B station, a 20-point bonus is earned if the operator is age 18 or younger. For a 2-person Class B station, a 20-point bonus is earned for each operator age 18 or younger (maximum of 40 points.) Keep in mind that Class B is only a 1 or 2 person operation. This bonus does not allow the total number of participants in Class B to exceed 1 or 2.

7.3.16 Social Media: 100 points for promoting your Field Day activation to the general public via an active, recognized and utilized social media platform (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc). This bonus is available to bona fide Amateur Radio clubs and Field Day groups that welcome visitors to their operation. Individual participants do not qualify for this bonus. Club websites do not qualify for this bonus. Available to all classes.

7.3.17 Safety Officer Bonus: A 100-point bonus may be earned by having a person serving as a Safety Officer for those groups setting up Class A stations. This person must verify that all safety concerns on the Safety Check List (found in the ARRL Field Day Packet) have been adequately met. This is an active bonus – simply designating someone as Safety Officer does not automatically earn this bonus. A statement verifying the completion of the Safety Check List must be included in the supporting documentation sent to ARRL HQ in order to claim this bonus.

8. Reporting:

8.1. Entries may be submitted to the ARRL in one of three ways: 8.1.1. Via Field Day Web Submission Applet site at www.b4h.net/cabforms/; 8.1.2. Via email to fieldday@arrl.org; or 8.1.3. Via land postal or delivery service to Field Day Entries, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111.

8.2. Entries must be postmarked, emailed or submitted by July 26, 2016. Late entries cannot be accepted.

8.3. A complete Field Day Web Applet Submission site entry consists of: 8.3.1. An official ARRL summary sheet which is completed on the site; 8.3.2. Supporting information must be emailed to fieldday@arrl.org or submitted by land service. Supporting information must include:

8.3.2.1. An attached list of stations worked by band/mode during the Field Day period (dupe sheet or an alpha/numeric list sorted by band and mode); and

8.3.2.2. Proof of all bonus points claimed (copies of isitor logs, press releases, NTS messages handled, photographs, etc).

8.4. A complete non-applet email submission consists of:

8.4.1. An electronic copy of an ARRL summary sheet completely and accurately filled out;

8.4.2. An attached list of stations worked by band/mode during the Field Day period (dupe sheet or an alpha/numeric list sorted by band and mode); and

8.4.3. Proofs of bonus points claimed (copies of visitor logs, press releases, NTS messages handled, photographs, etc).

8.5. A complete land postal or delivery non-electronic submission consists of:

8.5.1. A complete and accurate ARRL summary sheet;

8.5.2. An accompanying list of stations worked by band/mode during the Field Day period (dupe sheet or an alpha/numeric list sorted by band and mode); and

8.5.3. Proofs of bonus points claimed (copies of visitor logs, press releases, NTS messages handled, photographs, etc).

8.6. Complete station logs are not required for submission. The club should maintain log files for one year in case they are requested by ARRL HQ.

8.7. Cabrillo format log files are not required for Field Day entries. They will be accepted in lieu of the dupe sheets but do not constitute an entry unless a corresponding summary sheet is also submitted.

8.8. Digital images of proof of bonus points are acceptable.

8.9. Electronic submissions are considered signed when submitted.

9. Miscellaneous:

9.1. The schedule of bulletin times for W1AW is included in this announcement. While W1AW does

not have regular bulletins on weekends, the Field Day message will be sent according to the schedule included with this announcement. The W1AW bulletins will be transmitted on the regular W1AW frequencies listed in *QST*. The PSK31 bulletin will be transmitted on the W1AW teleprinter frequencies. The special Field Day bulletin will be transmitted from station K6KPH on the West Coast as included in the bulletin schedule.

9.2. See "General Rules for All ARRL Contests," "General Rules for All ARRL Contests on Bands Below 30 MHz," and "General Rules for All ARRL Contests on Bands Above 50 MHz" for additional rules (www.arrl.org/contest-rules) that may cover situations not covered in these Field Day rules. Decisions of the ARRL Awards Committee are final in adjudicating Field Day problems.

9.3. The complete Field Day information package may be obtained by:

9.3.1. Sending a SASE with 5 units of postage to: Field Day Information Package, ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111; or

9.3.2. By downloading from the Contest Branch home page at: www.arrl.org/field-day

9.4. For more Field Day information/questions contact: fdinfo@arrl.org or phone (860) 594-0232. (revised: January 2016)

Field Day Forms

Field Day Entry Submission Instructions:
Please make certain that your required summary sheet is complete with the following fields filled in:

1. Field Day Call Used: The callsign used by your club/group/ entry. If your group used a GOTA station please list that callsign in the space provided.

2. Club or Group Name: If your group entered as a Class A or F entry, please give us the name of the Club or Group.

3. Number of Participants: Give the number of persons who participated in your Field Day operation. Include operators, loggers, set-up crew, and visitors.

4. Number of Transmitters in Simultaneous Operation: The maximum number of transmitters that were transmitting at a given moment.

5. Entry Class: Refer to the Field Day rules for definitions.

Field Day

ARRL AMATEUR RADIO

Please write legibly. Make certain you have filled out this form completely and have enclosed any required dupe sheets, photographs and bonus claims.

Entries must be postmarked within 30 days of the end of the event and mailed to:
Field Day Entries
ARRL
225 Main St.
Newington, CT 06111 USA

1. Field Day Call Used _____ GOTA Station Call _____
2. Club or Group name (Class A or F only) _____
3. Number of Participants _____ 4. Number of Transmitters in Simultaneous Operation _____

5. Entry Class: Check only one.
___ A. Club or non-club group portable
___ B. 1 or 2 person non-club Group portable
List call of 2nd operator: _____
___ C. Mobile
___ D. Home station commercial power
___ E. Home station emergency power
___ F. EOC Station

6. Power Source: Check all that apply
___ Generator ___ Commercial mains ___ Battery ___ Solar ___ Other (list) :

7. ARRL / RAC Section _____

8. Total CW QSOs _____ x 2 = Total CW QSO points _____
9. Total Digital QSOs _____ x 2 = Total Digital QSO points _____
10. Total Phone QSOs _____ x 1 = Total Phone QSO points _____
11. Total QSO points _____

12. Power Multiplier (select only one)
___ 5 Watts or less and Battery powered = 5
___ 150 Watts or less = 2
___ Over 150 Watts = 1
(transfer to line 13)

13. Power Multiplier _____
14. Claimed QSO Score _____
(line 11 x line 13)
(excluding bonus points)

15. Bonus points claimed: Check each block as appropriate and include required proof of points with your submission. All bonus points will be verified at ARRL HQ and added to your score.

___ 100% Emergency power (Max. 20 transmitters)
___ Media Publicity
___ Set-up in Public Place
___ Information Booth
___ Message to ARRL SM/SEC
___ W1AW Field Day Message
___ NTS/ICS-213 messages handled (# _____)
___ Satellite QSO completed
___ Natural power QSOs completed
___ Site Visit by invited elected official
___ Site Visit by invited served agency official
___ Educational Activity Bonus
___ Youth Element achieved
___ GOTA Bonus (total bonus points: _____)
___ Submitted using the b4h.net applet
___ Safety Officer Bonus
___ Social Media Bonus

Total Bonus Points Claimed: _____

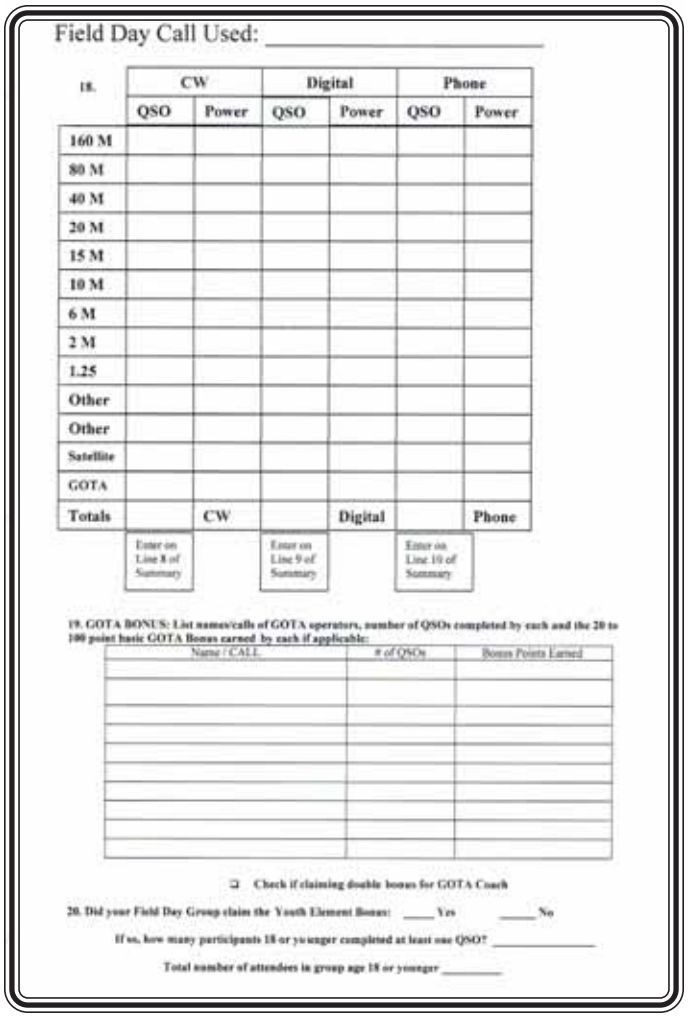
16. ___ Check here if Summary was submitted via the web applet at: www.b4h.net/cabforms

17. I/We have observed all competition rules as well as all regulations for amateur radio in my/our country. My/Our report is correct and true to the best of my/our knowledge. I/We agree to be bound by the decisions of the ARRL Awards Committee.

Date: _____
Call: _____
Signature: _____
(signature/call of club president or authorized club representative)
Address: _____
Address: _____
E-mail Address: _____

You must complete the Band/Mode and GOTA QSO breakdown box on page 2 of this form.

February 2016 - FD Form



Field Day Call Used: _____

18.

	CW		Digital		Phone	
	QSO	Power	QSO	Power	QSO	Power
160 M						
80 M						
40 M						
20 M						
15 M						
10 M						
6 M						
2 M						
1.25						
Other						
Other						
Satellite						
GOTA						
Totals		CW		Digital		Phone
	Enter on Line 8 of Summary		Enter on Line 9 of Summary		Enter on Line 10 of Summary	

19. GOTA BONUS: List names/calls of GOTA operators, number of QSOs completed by each and the 20 to 100 point basic GOTA Bonus earned by each if applicable:

Name / CALL	# of QSOs	Bonus Points Earned

❑ Check if claiming double bonus for GOTA Coach

20. Did your Field Day Group claim the Youth Element Bonus: _____ Yes _____ No

If so, how many participants 18 or younger completed at least one QSO? _____

Total number of attendees in group age 18 or younger _____

6. Check all power sources used: If you used more than one source, check all that apply.

7. Your ARRL / RAC section: This is usually your State or Province, but if you live in one of the 8 US states that have multiple ARRL sections (California, Florida, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas and Washington) refer to the ARRL section list. DX stations use the term "DX".

8. Total number of CW QSOs: In the first blank list the number of raw non-dupe CW QSOs. Multiply the CW QSO total by 2 and enter the CW QSO point total in the second blank. Do not add the power multiplier in this field.

9. Total number of Digital QSOs: On the first blank list the number of raw non-dupe Digital QSOs. Multiply the Digital

QSO total by 2 and enter the QSO point total in the second blank. Do not add the power multiplier in this field.

10. Total number of Phone QSOs: In the first blank list the number of raw non-dupe Phone QSOs. Multiply the Phone QSO total by 1 and enter the Phone QSO point total in the second blank. Do not add the power multiplier in this field.

11. Total QSO Points: Add the CW, Digital and Phone QSO points and enter here.

12. Power Multiplier: Select the category that corresponds with your power multiplier**. (Remember that to use the multiplier of 5, you must be using 5 watts or less AND running battery or solar power.)**

13. Enter the power multiplier from Item 12 onto this line.

14. Multiply line 11 times line 13 to calculate your claimed score, exclusive of bonus points.

15. Bonus Points Claimed: All categories now qualify for certain bonus points**.** Check each box for which you are claiming the earned Field Day bonus points. You must submit proof of all bonus points claimed or they will be disallowed. Proof for each may be in the form of photographs, copies of visitor logs, copies of press releases issued or newspaper articles printed, marked log excerpts
showing Satellite and Natural power QSOs. A written statement signed by a club or group official will suffice for the Emergency Power, Public Place, Information Booth, Social Media and Site Visit bonuses. A written statement from the Safety Officer is required to claim that bonus. You must provide serviced copies of any messages claimed for bonus credit. A copy of the W1AW bulletin must be included with the entry submission.

Special notations:

A. If the Field Day operation was 100% emergency powered, you receive 100 points for each transmitter up to 20.

B. The Field Day message to the SM or SEC does not also qualify as a 10-point message bonus.

C. The Educational Bonus must be some formal activity in order to qualify for the 100-Point bonus.

D. If you submitted your entry via the web application at *www.b4h.net/cabforms*, you may claim an additional 50 bonus points.

E. Youth Element – you must fill in information for question 20 page 2 of the summary if you claim this bonus.

16. Check this space if you have also submitted the entry via the Web Applet.

17. **A club officer, authorized club representative or individual must date, and sign the Summary Sheet**. Please provide a mailing address and e-Mail address (if available) in case questions arise with the entry.

18. You must include a band and mode breakdown of QSOs on the reverse side of the summary sheet form. GOTA station contacts should be indicated on a single line.

19. The list of GOTA station operators/participants must be shown and the number of QSOs each made must be listed in order to claim the GOTA bonus. Also you must check the box if you are claiming the double bonus for using a designated GOTA coach/ mentor.

20. If your group claims the Youth Element bonus, give the number of youth participants (18 years old or younger) who completed a QSO and the total number of youth attendees.

After completing the Summary Sheet, please enclose it, copies of Dupe Sheets (by band and mode), all proofs of bonus points claimed and mail to:

Field Day Entry
ARRL
225 Main Street
Newington, CT 06111

All Field Day entries must be postmarked or e-mailed within 30 days after the contest or they will be ineligible for inclusion in the Field Day results.

Field Day Logsheet

Field Day Log page ________ of ________

Call Used ________ Exchange Sent ________

Frequency	Mode	Date	Time (UTC)	Station Worked	Exchange Received

Note:N3FJP's Amateaur Radio Software <http://www.n3fjp.com/index.html> has a disk with all contest operating programs. One of the programs generates a Log Sheet during Field Day that can then be E-mailed to the sponsors.

Valley of the Moon Amateur Radio Club
presents

HAMFEST 2016

Saturday, April 30th,
8 am to 12 noon

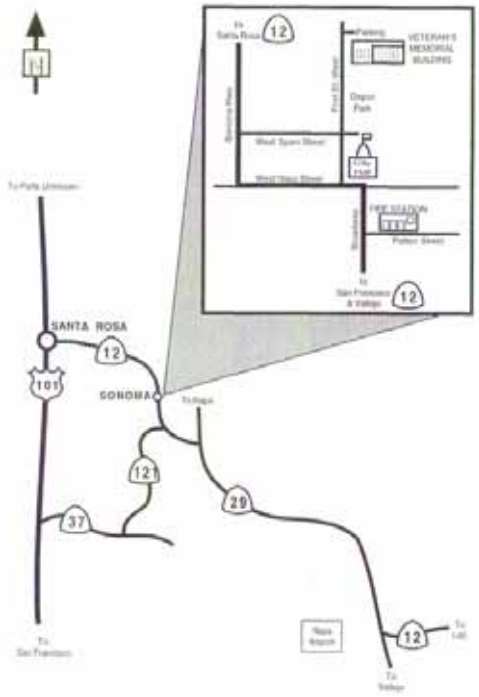
Featuring

- ☐ Swap Meet (indoor and outdoor spaces)
- ☐ Breakfast
- ☐ VE Testing Session
- ☐ Station Demos
- ☐ Fox Hunt

PLUS: special exhibit of vehicles that support emergency communications
Radio Control helicopter using 70cm.
On the air demo of FreeDV digital voice on HF

Sonoma Veterans Memorial Building
126 First Street West
Sonoma
For info: 707-935-7441

Admission: FREE
Breakfast: $8.00
Talk-in on 145.350 MHz (88.5 pl)
for flyer and map: www.vomarc.org



Map to Sonoma Hamfest

VACAVALLEY RADIO CLUB, INC.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

Please Print & Fill in Completely

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Name: _____ Call Sign_____

Street:
_____

City: _____Zip:
_____

Phone: (_____) _____-_____OK to Publish ?(_____)

License Class: _____ ARRL Member ?(_____)

E-Mail
Address_____

FAMILY Member (Spouse or Children)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

Name: _____ Call Sign_____
License Class: _____ARRL Member ?(_____)

MEMBER Dues _____$25.00

Each Family Member _____$ 2.00

Student _____$5.00

Repeater/Autopatch donation_____

Call/Name badge_____$11.00

Paid by CASH:/Check #_____

DATE: ____ _____ ____

TOTAL----------_____

Mail to : Vaca Valley Radio Club, PO Box 143, Elmira, CA 95625-0143